

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1 and 7 to read as follows.

1. (Three Times Amended) In a soft tissue paper machine having an essentially impermeable transfer belt for conducting a soft tissue web through a shoe press nip in the press section of the paper machine, and from the shoe press nip to a Yankee cylinder in the dryer section of the paper machine in a closed draw, which Yankee cylinder forms, together with a transfer means, a transfer nip transferring the soft tissue web from the transfer belt to the Yankee cylinder, the improvement comprising an essentially impermeable transfer belt having a carrier and an elastically compressible polymer layer on its side facing the paper web, the polymer layer having a hardness between 50 and 97 Shore A and having a web-contacting surface which has a pressure-sensitive resettable degree of roughness, the web-contacting surface having a degree of roughness in a non-compressed state of  $R_z = 2-80 \mu\text{m}$ , measured according to ISO 4287, Part I, and a lower degree of roughness of  $R_z = 0-20 \mu\text{m}$  when the polymer layer is compressed by a linear load of 20-220 kN/m applied to the essentially impermeable transfer belt as measured in a non-extended press nip,

wherein the transfer of said soft tissue web from said shoe press nip ~~directly~~ to the Yankee cylinder is improved due to said transfer belt's web-contacting surface having a pressure-sensitive resettable degree of roughness.

7. (Four Times Amended) In a soft tissue paper machine having an essentially impermeable transfer belt for conducting a soft tissue web through a shoe press nip in the press section of the paper machine, and from the shoe press nip to a Yankee cylinder in the dryer section of the paper machine in a closed draw, which Yankee cylinder forms, together with a transfer means, a transfer nip transferring the soft tissue web from the transfer belt to the Yankee

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cylinder, the improvement comprising an essentially impermeable transfer belt having a carrier and an elastically compressible polymer layer on its side facing the paper web, the polymer layer having a hardness between 50 and 97 Shore A and having a web-contacting surface which has a pressure-sensitive resettable degree of roughness, the web-contacting surface having a degree of roughness in a non-compressed state of  $R_z = 2-80 \mu\text{m}$ , measured according to ISO 4287, Part I, and a lower degree of roughness of  $R_z = 0-20 \mu\text{m}$  when the polymer layer is compressed by a linear load of 20-220 kN/m applied to the essentially impermeable transfer belt as measured in a non-extended press nip,

wherein the transfer of said soft tissue web from said shoe press nip to the Yankee cylinder is improved due to said transfer belt's web-contacting surface having a pressure-sensitive resettable degree of roughness, and wherein the polymer layer is embossed to produce embossed soft tissue.

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